

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman, and like her, I commend the gentleman from California for his tireless work on an issue that rarely gets community support, and I am convinced, as he said I visited the area, that we will have an up-and-running homeless program for veterans with substance abuse in a very short time. It is a place where the VA is using its facilities, and it is a great opportunity for anybody who wants to help this issue.

So I thank the gentleman and I thank the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1642, the "Homeless Veterans Housing at Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center Promotion Act."

America's veterans have risked their lives for their country. They deserve the best treatment and support that we can offer them. Despite this, homelessness remains a pervasive problem among veterans, with many homeless veterans also fighting substance abuse problems. It is our responsibility, as our Nation's leaders, to work to ensure they receive the assistance they need.

This bill is an important step toward that goal. The Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center, located in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, exists to provide care to veterans. It is currently the major outpatient facility for the 1.4 million veterans living in northern Los Angeles. The Center falls under the purview of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and includes education and research facilities, in addition to comprehensive ambulatory care. This facility serves a vital role for the region's veterans.

This bill would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain a homeless housing project at the Sepulveda Center as a sober living facility for veterans only. H.R. 1642 also requires that this housing project be provided with adequate staffing and security.

This legislation is a necessary step in ensuring that our veterans receive the support that they need. I strongly support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAIRD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1642.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SPARTANS FOR THEIR VICTORY IN THE 2007 NCAA HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 325) commending the Michigan State University Spartans for their victory in the 2007 NCAA Hockey Championship, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 325

Whereas Michigan State University is one of the premier academic institutions in the nation;

Whereas on April 9, 2007, the Michigan State University Spartans won their first National Collegiate Athletic Association Hockey Championship in 21 years;

Whereas the members of the Michigan State University 2007 hockey team include Jeff Lerg, Chris Snavelly, Ethan Graham, Brandon Gentile, Brandon Warner, Justin Abdelkader, Tim Kennedy, Bryan Lerg, Ryan Turek, Zak McClellan, Jeff Dunne, Tyler Howells, Jay Sprague, Chris Mueller, Chris Lawrence, Nick Sucharski, Matt Schepke, Jim McKenzie, Kurt Kivisto, Daniel Sturges, Daniel Vukovic, Steve Mnich, Bobby Jarosz, Tim Crowder, Justin Johnston, and Michael Ratchuk;

Whereas Head Coach Rick Comley and Assistant Coaches Tom Newton, Brian Renfrew, and Rob Woodward are to be commended for outstanding coaching throughout the 2007 season;

Whereas the Spartans won the championship game by coming from behind to score 3 goals in a stunning third-period upset;

Whereas the Spartans succeeded not only because of the skills of talented individual players but because those players worked so well together as a team;

Whereas in the championship game, the Spartans beat Boston College, a team that had won 13 straight games, featured 12 National Hockey League draft picks, and had played in the 2006 NCAA championship game as well;

Whereas Spartan head coach Rick Comley has now won 3 national hockey championships (one with the NAIA and 2 with the NCAA) with 3 different Michigan universities: Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University, and Michigan State University;

Whereas when the Spartans last won a national hockey championship, they were coached by Ron Mason, who continues to serve Michigan State University as the school's Athletic Director and who in fact hired Coach Comley as his replacement;

Whereas Michigan State University and the East Lansing community honored the Spartans upon their return in a manner befitting of champions; and

Whereas Michigan State University students, faculty, alumni, and all Michigan State fans are deeply committed to bringing pride to Michigan State University and to the entire state of Michigan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Michigan State University Spartans for their victory in the 2007 NCAA Hockey Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped Michigan State University win the championship; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon, hockey Head Coach Rick Comley, and Athletic Director Ron Mason for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, on April 7 in St. Louis, Missouri, the Michigan State Spartans beat the Boston College

Eagles 3-1 to win the 2007 NCAA Hockey Championship, affectionately known annually as the Frozen Four.

The win gave the Michigan State hockey team their first championship in 21 years, and Spartan forward Justin Abdelkader rang it off the post and scored with 18.9 seconds to snap a 1-1 tie and bring home the championship for Michigan State.

They scored three goals in the final 10 minutes of the game, and Spartan goalie Jeff Lerg was spectacular, making 29 saves and allowing only one goal.

The Spartans won the hearts of underdogs everywhere. Their win capped an improbable four-game run by the third-seeded Michigan State team, who few considered to be championship contenders. In fact, the Spartans are only the second number three seed to make it to the championship game and the first in history to win it.

Justin Abdelkader was the 2007 Men's Frozen Four MVP, and the championship is Head Coach Rich Comley's second. He also won as head coach of Northern Michigan in 1991. He is one of only three coaches to have won titles with two different teams.

This is the second straight year that Boston College has lost in the championship game, and I did want to take a moment to highlight their achievements.

Last year, they lost in the finals to the Wisconsin Badgers, but prior to this year's championship, they had won 13 consecutive games, piling up a 29-11-2 record. They had multiple All-American candidates and two players who received All New England honors.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Spartan's head coach Rick Comley, Assistant Coaches Tom Newton, Brian Renfrew and Rob Woodward. I also want to recognize Michigan State University Athletic Director Ron Mason, President Lou Anna Simon and, most importantly, the Spartan players for their amazing season.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS), and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I also want to thank Bart Stupak from Michigan for working with us on this resolution.

I am proud to represent Michigan State University in the great State of Michigan. It is truly an extraordinary school with a proud history of world-class academics and championship athletics. Known for its quality in faculty, its research, it is certainly one of the finer universities, a proud tradition in

land grant institutions in this great State who is now headed by President Lou Anna Simon, who has done a tremendous job at the university in so many areas.

But last month we got to witness Michigan State's winning tradition once again, this time on the biggest stage in college hockey.

On April 7, the MSU hockey team won the Division I NCAA National Championship. The Spartans defeated Boston College by a score of 3-1, as we all know, and the winning goal came with only 18.9 seconds left in the game. It's no fun unless you make it close. Well, our Spartans certainly got our heart rates up that particular day.

It was a hard-fought game against a top-ranked opponent, but as many of you know, the Spartans' specialty is winning. They came out on top.

The Spartans scored three goals in the third period to spur a dramatic, comeback-from-behind victory. Justin Abdelkader scored the game-winning goal and was named MVP of the NCAA Frozen Four tournament. Chris Mueller put the game out of reach with an empty-net goal with just 1.2 seconds left on the clock. Goalie Jeff Lerg made 29 saves, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania discussed earlier.

Upon their return to East Lansing, showing the school spirit, certainly the community's support, there were over 4,500 fans turned out for a parade and a rally at Munn Ice Arena on the campus of Michigan State University.

Prior to the championship game, the MSU hockey squad burned through the NCAA Frozen Four tournament. The Spartans defeated Boston University, Notre Dame, University of Maine to reach that championship game.

In the tournament, the Spartans played top-notch defense against the Nation's best teams. They were 17 for 18 on penalty kills. Jeff Lerg made 104 saves and allowed only five goals in the tournament.

Let me tell you a little bit more about this historic championship season. The Spartans won the national championship for the third time in school history, the first since 1986 when current Athletic Director Ron Mason coached the team. Michigan State's Rick Comley, in his fifth year as head coach, won his first national title with Michigan State and the second national title as head coach. The Spartans compiled a 23-13-3 record and won the national championship as a number three seed in a field of 16 tournament.

There are many reasons to be proud of this Spartan team, and there are many reasons Michigan State fans are so proud of their hockey team and their university.

Michigan State remains the all-time winningest program in the history of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association. Former Head Coach Ron Mason has 924 victories, making him the all-time winningest coach in NCAA history. Current Head Coach Rick Comley has 714 wins, ranking fifth of all time.

I am proud to be a Spartan and represent that fine Michigan State University, and on behalf of myself, the entire Michigan delegation, BART STUPAK for his special assistance, I would like to congratulate our head coach, Rick Comley; his hardworking staff and assistants; and the best hockey players on the ice, the Michigan State Spartans; and certainly their fans.

Go Green.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman from Michigan. I know there is no greater Michigan State fan in this body than him and how thrilled he was when they brought home that title. So congratulations to him.

This bill was sponsored by Congressman STUPAK from Michigan, and he apologizes for not being able to be here. We had a change in the schedule due to the budget discussion that we had that went on for an hour or so. He wanted me to point out specifically how happy he was for Head Coach Comley, whom he has known for his years at Northern Michigan where he won his first championship.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 325, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SENIOR GAMES ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 290) honoring the contributions of the Rocky Mountain Senior Games on its 30th anniversary for significantly improving the health and well-being of older Americans.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 290

Whereas in 1978 the Colorado Senior Sports Development Council (CSSDC) began hosting athletic competitions for individuals 50 years of age and older;

Whereas the city of Greeley, Colorado, worked with CSSDC to bring this popular athletic competition and social opportunity to the Rocky Mountain region;

Whereas the Rocky Mountain Senior Games originated as a 1-day event featuring swimming, basketball, and track and field;

Whereas the Rocky Mountain Senior Games now features a variety of sports and recreational activities during the week-long competition, including archery, badminton, basketball, billiards, bowling, cycling, golf, horseshoes, dancing, pickleball, race walking, racquetball, running, shuffleboard,

swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, triathlon, trap and skeet shooting, and weight lifting;

Whereas the Rocky Mountain Senior Games encourages athletes of all abilities to participate in the competition by creating age categories with 5-year increments;

Whereas the competition is also divided into male and female divisions, as well as mixed divisions in several doubles events;

Whereas athletes who qualify at the State level are eligible to compete at the biennial National Senior Games;

Whereas Colorado is always well represented at the National Senior Games by athletes who pay their own expenses to attend and compete, such as the 640 Colorado athletes who have already qualified for the 2007 National Senior Games in Louisville, Kentucky;

Whereas participants in the Rocky Mountain Senior Games experience the friendly fellowship, camaraderie, and exhilaration of competition, as well as the enjoyment of associated social events;

Whereas participants in the Rocky Mountain Senior Games experience highly beneficial effects on both their physical and mental health, leading to the ultimate goal of the Games of promoting "Fitness as a Lifestyle";

Whereas volunteers and event coordinators of all ages make the week's events possible; and

Whereas the 30th annual Rocky Mountain Senior Games will be held from June 6-10, 2007: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the contributions of the Rocky Mountain Senior Games on its 30th anniversary for significantly improving the health and well-being of older Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, for 30 years the Rocky Mountain Senior Games has offered athletic competition and social opportunities to men and women, age 50 and older. Athletes of all abilities are encouraged to participate in over 30 athletic and social events. Competition is divided into male and female divisions, as well as mixed competition and by age groups. The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Senior Games is to motivate women and men over the age of 50 to pursue and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

In 2006, the Rocky Mountain Senior Games hosted 1,035 participants from 17 States across the country. The Rocky Mountain Senior Games offers our Nation's seniors the opportunity to experience the thrill of competition and the joy of camaraderie, while improving their physical fitness.

It is of vital importance that we encourage all adults to establish and maintain healthy lifestyles so that they can maintain a high quality of life as they grow older.